

THE NEWS THE GOSS THE PICS THE SPORT

DAILY STAR

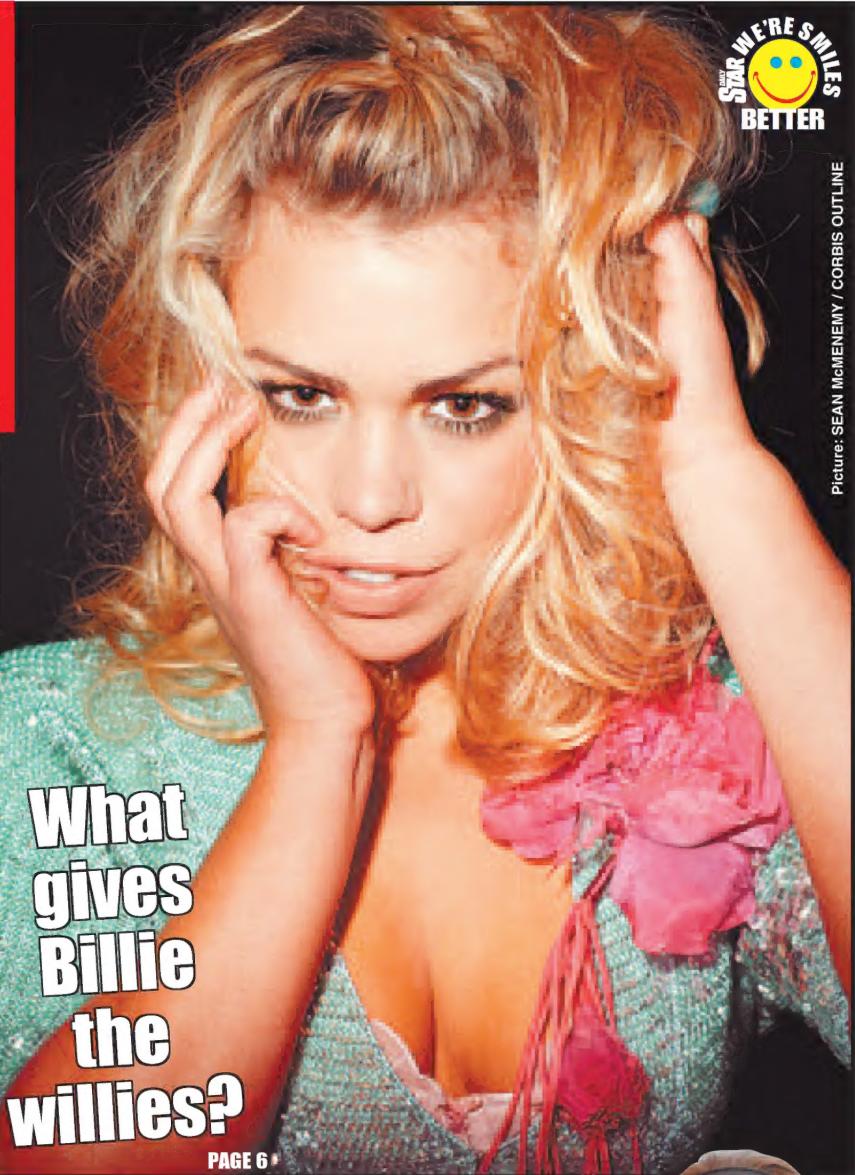
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2005 SIMPLY THE BEST 7 DAYS A WEEK 35p

FERGIE WINS IT BY A SMILE

FULL STORY:
BACK PAGE



PLUS
FREE **SERIOUSLY**
football
20-page pullout
INSIDE



What
gives
Billie
the
willies?

PAGE 6

X RATED BUST-UP



X FACTOR
CLUSIVE

X FACTOR loser Chenai Zinyuku claims the show is being rocked by a bitter wannabes war.

Fans have been told it is the judges who hate each other, but behind the scenes the singers are at each other's throats.

ITV bosses now fear the bust-ups will get even worse as the contest really starts to heat up.

Chenai, 19, above, warned: "Viewers are in for a shock now the gloves are off." Full story: Pages 4 & 5



FREE PACKET OF NOBBY'S CRISPS AT

ONE-STOP PAGE 25



20 die in twisters

FIERCE tornadoes battered America yesterday killing at least 20 and injuring hundreds. A pregnant woman is among the dead. Most victims were killed when a 60mph twister hit a trailer park in Evansville, Kentucky, yesterday before ripping into Indiana.

People and animals, including horses, were seen flying through the air. And buildings, including a racecourse grandstand, were ripped down.

A witness said: "It was petrifying. People were tossed around like rag dolls."

SAVED: Woman pulled from wrecked mobile home in Evansville. Inset, destroyed racecourse in Henderson, Kentucky.

Pictures: AP



Happy Birthday



Thought for day

I used to have an open mind but my brains kept falling out.

INSIDE TODAY

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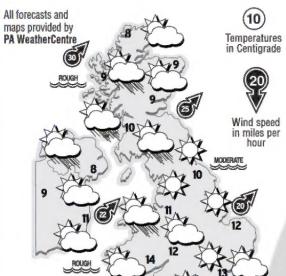
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INFO STATION

TODAY: Central and eastern areas of England and eastern Scotland will have sunny spells. Western parts of the UK will have sunny intervals and showers. Northern Ireland and the far west of Scotland will have rain and gales.

OUTLOOK: Unsettled tomorrow with rain moving eastwards across most areas, followed by brighter weather in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Drier across the UK on Wednesday.



THREE-DAY OUTLOOK

	POUND ABROAD
Tuesday Rain	Australia 2.26 dollars
Wednesday Fair	Canada 1.99 dollars
Thursday Showers	Cyprus 0.80 pounds
	Czech Republic 39.80 korunas
	Mexico 16.93 pesos
	South Africa 11.01 rand
	Thailand 64.27 baht
	Turkey 2.25 new lira
	United States 1.69 dollars

	EURO
Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Holland, Portugal, Spain	1.41

ABROAD			
Alicante 21c (70)	Moscow 7c (45)		
Corfu sunny 20c (68)	N York 20c (68)		
Dublin sunny 17c (57)	Nice 17c (57)		
Los Angeles fair 20c (68)	Rhodes sunny 18c (64)		
Majorca sunny 20c (68)	Rome 17c (53)		
Miami fair 26c (79)	Tenerife sunny 26c (79)		

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CLIMB DOWN

Blair's terror detention U-turn

TONY Blair last night caved into demands to change controversial plans to lock up terror suspects for 90 days without charge.

The defiant PM stood by the troubled anti-terrorism proposals but admitted a compromise had to be reached.

Mr Blair's spokesman said yesterday:

■ by DYLAN AUBREY

"The Prime Minister acknowledges there will have to be negotiations and/or compromise, but as far as he is concerned 90 days continues to be right."

Last week the Government was rocked after the flagship Bill was hit by a massive backbench Labour MP rebellion.

To avoid defeat Ministers agreed to postpone the vote on allowing police to hold suspects for up to 90 days without charge.

Rebel

Today Home Secretary Charles Clarke, 55, is due to meet Tory and Lib Dem leaders to try to thrash out a new deal.

But Labour backbencher David Winnick, 72, has vowed to put forward a rebel amendment, limiting detention to 28 days.

Mr Blair, 52, said yesterday: "I still think there is a woeful complacency about a lot of the public debate about this."

"The police told me, and the security services back

them up, that they may have stopped two further attempts since July 7."

"I find it really odd that we're having to make the case that this is an issue, when virtually every week, somewhere in the world, terrorists loosely linked with the same movement are killing scores of people."

Yesterday a poll for Sky News revealed almost three-in-four people in the UK back the 90-day detention plans.

news.dailystar.co.uk



ROCKED: PM Tony Blair

Paris bomb raid

POLICE found a bomb-making factory in a Paris suburb yesterday as France braced itself for an eleventh night of violence.

Officials said the explosive ingredients for 150 Molotov cocktails found in the raid

proved the riots were the work of organised gangs.

The British Foreign Office warned visitors to "exercise extreme care and avoid any demonstrations" after violence spread across France over the weekend.

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SATURDAY LOTTO
NOVEMBER 5

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12 13 21 26 32 39 17

Two tickets win the £9.9m jackpot
EXTRA: 7, 20, 31, 37, 42, 47 TBall: 1, 13, 24, 30, 31 (Tb 5)
No Extra winners. One T'Ball winner.

19 25 32 47 48 49 28

There were no winners of the £3.2 million jackpot
Extra: 2, 4, 8, 22, 33, 38 TBall: 2, 3, 4, 5, 24 (Tb 2)
No Extra winners. £250k T'Ball winners.

EURO MILLIONS

FRIDAY, NOV 4

26, 35, 37, 38, 42
Lucky Star
Numbers 2, 6

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Sam

SAY good morning to Sam, a new Page 3 babe to brighten up your day. The 18-year-old Essex girl is a karaoke queen down at her local on Saturday nights, where the regulars love to hear her sing Sam Guys Have All The Luck.



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Picture: JEANY SAVAGE

MY NEW TUCKER TORTURE

Burrell back in jungle



TUCK IN:
Burrell tries to down a plate of kangaroo testicles in a Bush Tucker Trial last year

FORMER Royal butler Paul Burrell is going back into the jungle to face Telly's worst-ever Bush Tucker Trials.

Burrell, a big hit with fans of I'm A Celebrity... last year, is returning to the show – but not as a contestant.

He has been signed up to appear on the ITV2 spin-off of the hit show testing out some of the nightmare tasks facing this year's jungle stars.

The challenges will include booby-trapped treks in the rainforest and a dish even more stomach-churning than the kangaroo testicles that had him gagging in the last series.

Last night Princess Di's ex-butler Burrell, 47, said: 'I'm really excited about going back to the jungle.'

'It was one of the most incredible and challenging experiences I've ever had.'

'I'm ready for any new trials that are thrown my way. But I'm not overly

EXCLUSIVE ■ by PETER DYKE

excited about the thought of jungle food.' A show source added: 'Burrell was such good value last year, we couldn't resist asking him back.'

'We've got some really shocking Bush Tucker Trials planned and we thought it would be great to have Burrell try them out first.'

'We thought he'd turn us down but in fact he jumped at the chance.'

Harder

Bosses say the new series, starting on Sunday, November 20, will be 'bigger, better, harder and harsher'.

The Daily Star Sunday revealed yesterday that Corrie star Sean Wilson, 40, and ex-Atomic Kitten Jenny Frost, 27, are set to head down under.

Others tipped for the jungle include Margaret Thatcher's daughter Carol, 52, and Blue hunk Antony Costa, 24.

peter.dyke@dailystar.co.uk

MIKE WARD ON TV

Page 13

Hoody in Vogue

HOODY tops are set to be the biggest fashion must-have next year says style bible Vogue.

The tops – a favourite with chavs and dubbed the thug's uniform – have been banned by shopping centres.

But Vogue urges readers to splash out on luxury hoodies from designers such as Stella McCartney, 34, and trendy label Juicy Couture. The mag says: 'It's time to reclaim the hooded top from malevolent scowling youths.'





ABOUT TELLY



ABOUT TELLY

MARKS

**It's a war zone
warns Chenai**

EXCLUSIVE ■ by PETER DYKE

A WAR is raging behind the scenes of **The X Factor** with rival finalists at each others' throats.

Show reject Chenai Zinyuku has revealed that while the wannabes may be all smiles on stage for the cameras, the atmosphere is far from harmonious in reality.

The 19-year-old singer, who was booted out on Saturday night, claims she was a big victim of the personality clashes inside The X Factor house which threaten to rock the show.

Chenai says older stars like Brenda Edwards, 36, and Maria Lawson, 30, used to "undermine her" or "freeze her out". Insiders also say the "stronger personalities" are making lives hell for others.

But judge Simon Cowell insisted he did not want the wannabes to be friends because everyone is a rival.

He said: "I want these people to be at each others' throats because that's what it's like in real life."

Heated

"I only want to see people in this competition who are determined to win and who'll do anything to get the prize."

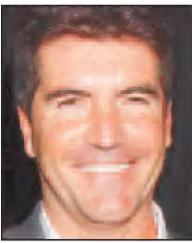
"I don't want a bunch of pussycats being nice to each other."

Heartbroken Chenai said: "Four weeks ago all the X Factor finalists were moved into this huge house to live together, a bit like Big Brother. "And the trouble is when you are put in a house together and you have to live in and out of one another's pockets, then things will get heated."

"We all started off saying everything is fine but as time goes on everyone's personality is developing and people are starting to come out of their shells more."

"There will be personality clashes and that's what happening now."

"There are no frills any more. It's like now what you see is what you get. The gloves are off. I think viewers will be in for a shock as time goes on about just



TOUGH GAME: Simon

what's going on." Chenai admits that she and Brenda never saw eye to eye.

The fur flew last week when Brenda saw a playback of the show and heard Cowell, 46, say that out of the three girls left, Chenai was the weakest.

She hit back: "Well, they're 15 years older than me."

Brenda took offence and the pair ended up having a screaming match and had to be separated by crew members.

Cheval said: "It's sad it happened like that because I don't think it made me look good."

"Put it this way, I don't want a re-match with her. Brenda can be very short with you."

"You don't mess with her."

Cheval also claimed that newly-wed Maria made no effort to become pals.

She said: "I shared a room with Maria for four weeks and yet I didn't get to know her at all. I just didn't connect with her."

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Pictures:
KEN McKAY /
REX FEATURES

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GOING HOME: Chenai
yesterday and, above,
being comforted
by presenter Kate
Thornton on Saturday



DANCE FLOP: Fiona

It's been a blast for Fi

■ by PETER DYKE

foxtrot with dancing partner
Brendan Cole, 29.

Judge Arlene Phillips, 49, told
her: "That was dreadful."

And fellow panellist Craig
Revel Horwood, 37, added: "It
was lame."

After being given the chop,
exhausted Fiona confessed: "I'm
not surprised I've gone. I knew
people's patience with me
would run out."

"But I've had a laugh and I'm

just sorry Brendan got
lumbered with me."

Strictly Come Dancing got its
best ever ratings on Saturday
and gave X Factor a run for its
money in the viewing figures.

Its early show - hosted by
Bruce Forsyth, 77, and Tess
Daly, 34 - peaked at 8.3million
while the ITV rival talent series
just edged ahead on 8.8million.

But the Beeb waltzed away
the winner with eight million for
its results show later that night
while X Factor drew 7.6million.



DAILY STAR

ABOUT TELLY DAILY STAR

ABOUT TELLY

THE SPAT!



SEX FACTOR: The Conway Sisters get to grips with hunky Chico, who now has a gaggle of girl groupies



Pictures: HARLEQUIN

Chico's cheeky girls

A GANG of groupies has been stalking X Factor hunk Chico Slimani and bombarding him with saucy offers and kinky underwear.

The girls, calling themselves "Chic-ettes", have discovered the London hideaway where the singer and other finalists are living.

They have been besieging the 34-year-old wannabe with explicit X-rated letters, naughty photos and silky lingerie. And they have been begging him to sneak out for nookie with them.

Chico, who wowed viewers on Saturday with his raunchy stage performance of Prince song Kiss, said last night: "My flabber is once again gasted over the saucy offers I've had from these girls." The Chic-ettes had

EXCLUSIVE ■ by PETER DYKE

hoped to keep their obsession with the ex-stripper hush hush.

But X Factor reject Chenai Zinyuku, 19, lifted the lid on their saucy secrets last night.

She said: "Some girl fans have discovered where we are all staying and every so often we'll hear the letter box go and we'll find all these letters and notes and parcels.

"They've even been sending him their knickers and shouting out his name outside the house."

● **ARE you a Chic-ette? Call us on 0871 520 7373 (don't worry about the cost – we'll call you right back).**



IT'S WAR: Gervais v Little Britain

An Extra gong for Ricky?

■ by JON DI PAOLO

RICKY Gervais and Little Britain are going head-to-head to see who is of king of TV comedy.

The stars are up for a host of gongs at this year's British Comedy Awards. Extras, Ricky Gervais's follow-up to The Office, has bagged a record five nominations.

The shortlist puts him up against Matt Lucas and David Walliams, the brains behind Little Britain, for the titles of Best Comedy and Best Comedy Actor.

Last year, Lucas and Walliams scooped both awards.

But Gervais has already turned up the heat by taking a swipe at the duo's "tacky" spin-offs.

Chav

Lucas and Walliams have approved a range of Little Britain products, including dolls of chav queen Vicky Pollard and "only gay in the village" Dafydd, that shout the show's catchphrases.

They are tipped to be a massive Christmas hit that will make the pair millions.

But Gervais sneered at telly comics who cash in on merchandising, saying items produced on the back of shows were just "pieces of tat you don't need".

ITV1 will screen the awards, presented by Jonathan Ross, at 9pm on December 14.



DOLLS: Walliams and Lucas

Fake doc scandal

FOREIGN students are getting bogus medical degrees from private colleges – meaning unqualified medics can practise in the NHS.

The General Medical Council has halted recognition of degrees from a Luton college with 400 students and is investigating the status of four others.

GMC leaders fear that overseas students may be “buying” qualifications at the colleges, where fees can be up to £150,000, and getting jobs in British hospitals.

“We have asked the NHS counter-fraud service to assist us,” said a spokeswoman.

EVANS: MY SECRET BREAKDOWN



FIRED: DJ Chris

DJ Chris Evans confessed yesterday he had a breakdown when he was sacked from his radio show.

The millionaire star lost Virgin Radio's breakfast slot after going on booze binges, claiming he was sick.

“I didn't know at the time that I was having some sort of

■ by DENIS CASSIDY

breakdown,” he told Sue Lawley, 59, on Radio 4's Desert Island Discs.

“I ended up doing nothing, which was obviously what I needed.”

Chris, 39, said he suffered from a condition known as The Paradise Syndrome when successful people suddenly

crack up. He said he knew the writing was on the wall at Virgin when he found a notebook behind a coffee pot at the station with details of a private meeting of bosses.

It was littered with phrases like “Evans must go” and “We have got to get rid of Chris.”

He added: “I knew then my time was up.”

But he confessed that throughout his life he had had a chronic fear of being fired.

“Everywhere I worked I was afraid they were going to get rid of me – that is why I tried to walk out before I was pushed,” said Chris.

Punched

He even admitted that he had walked out of two schools as a youngster.

The first time was when a teacher punched him and the second occasion when he was ordered to close down a rival tuckshop he had set up and the headmaster accused him of depriving the school of much-needed funds.

He said: “I offered to put up all my prices and give the difference to the school but he turned me down flat. He just wanted to close me down.”

“So I just turned around and said ‘if that is your attitude then there is no place for me here’.

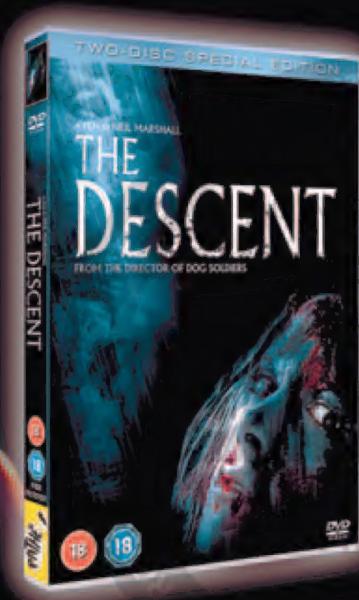
“That was the start of a pattern and I have walked out of a number of places since because I couldn't get my own way.”

news@dailystar.co.uk



Picture: CORBIS OUTLINE

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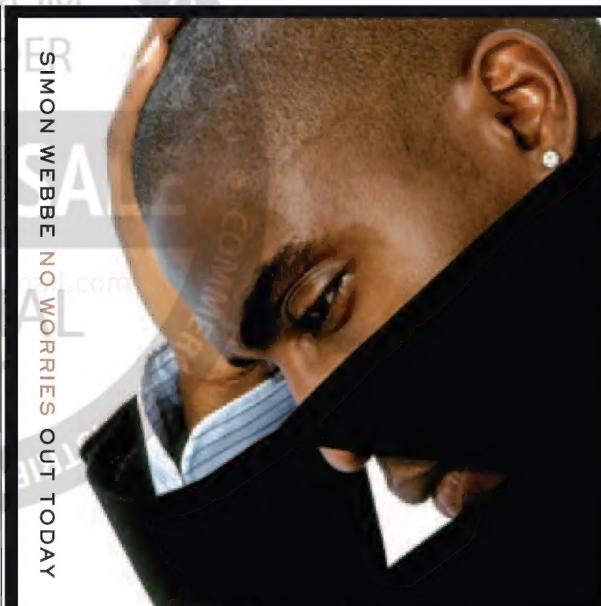


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Kiss and a playful punch as star fights to win back her fella

■ by MARIANNE PARTASIDES

TV BABE Kerry Katona larked about with her lover yesterday as the warring pair got set to kiss and make up.

She playfully sparred with Dave Cunningham after apparently rekindling their broken romance.

The couple split up days earlier amid allegations that decorator Dave slapped Kerry during a fiery bust-up outside a Spanish nightclub.

But yesterday both denied reports that Kerry, 25, was left unconscious for 10 minutes after the row.

Mum-of-two Kerry said: "You're having a f***ing laugh aren't you? He couldn't knock me out if he tried."

Their troubles came after bouncer Dave Costen, 28, from the Bedrock Bar in Spain's swanky Puerto Banus resort, alleged he saw the clash while the couple were on holiday.

He said Kerry tried to punch her lover before 26-year-old Dave slapped her in the face with an open hand.

Costen is reported to have said: "The blow sent her crashing down on to a wall. She was unconscious."

But Kerry's publicist Max Clifford confirmed the

KERRY AND LOVER WHACK TOGETHER



couple broke up days later when Dave moved his stuff out of Kerry's home because of her wild-child side.

The pair first dated when Kerry was just 17 and got back together in January this year after meeting up on TV show *With A Little Help From My Friends*.

"They could well get back together," Clifford, 62, said last night. "They have been speaking since this morning."

"Most of this is a storm in a teacup. Who knows if their plans for marriage will be back on?"

In a bizarre twist Kerry also claimed she was only pretending to have passed out when she realised that people were watching their squabble.

Clifford added: "She whacked him because he wanted her to leave the club."

"She lay down and pretended to be unconscious because there was a row going on so she closed her eyes and stayed down."

"But she was not unconscious."

"Kerry is full of energy and wants to be out there. Dave wants a quieter lifestyle and he tells her that."

"I think Dave is a steady influence on her. He is a sensible lad."

marianna.partasides@dailystar.co.uk

BOXING CLEVER:
Kerry and Dave get together yesterday

Pictures: MERCURY PRESS

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SPELLBOUND:
Actress Kate Beckinsale with her daughter Lily, Madonna and Lourdes, centre, and supermodel Claudia Schiffer

THE STARS GO HARRY POTTY



by TOM SAVAGE and NADINE LINGE

★ THERE was magic in the air last night as the stars of Harry Potter braved the rain to greet 7,000 fans at the new film's premiere.

Actors Daniel Radcliffe, 16, and Emma Watson, 15, who play Harry and Hermione, drew the biggest cheers in London's Leicester Square.

★ Harry Potter And The Goblet Of Fire is the fourth big-screen outing for the schoolboy wizard.

Also at the screening were Rupert Grint, 17, who plays Ron Weasley, Robbie Coltrane, 55, who plays Harry's friend Hagrid and Dumbledore actor Michael Gambon, 65.

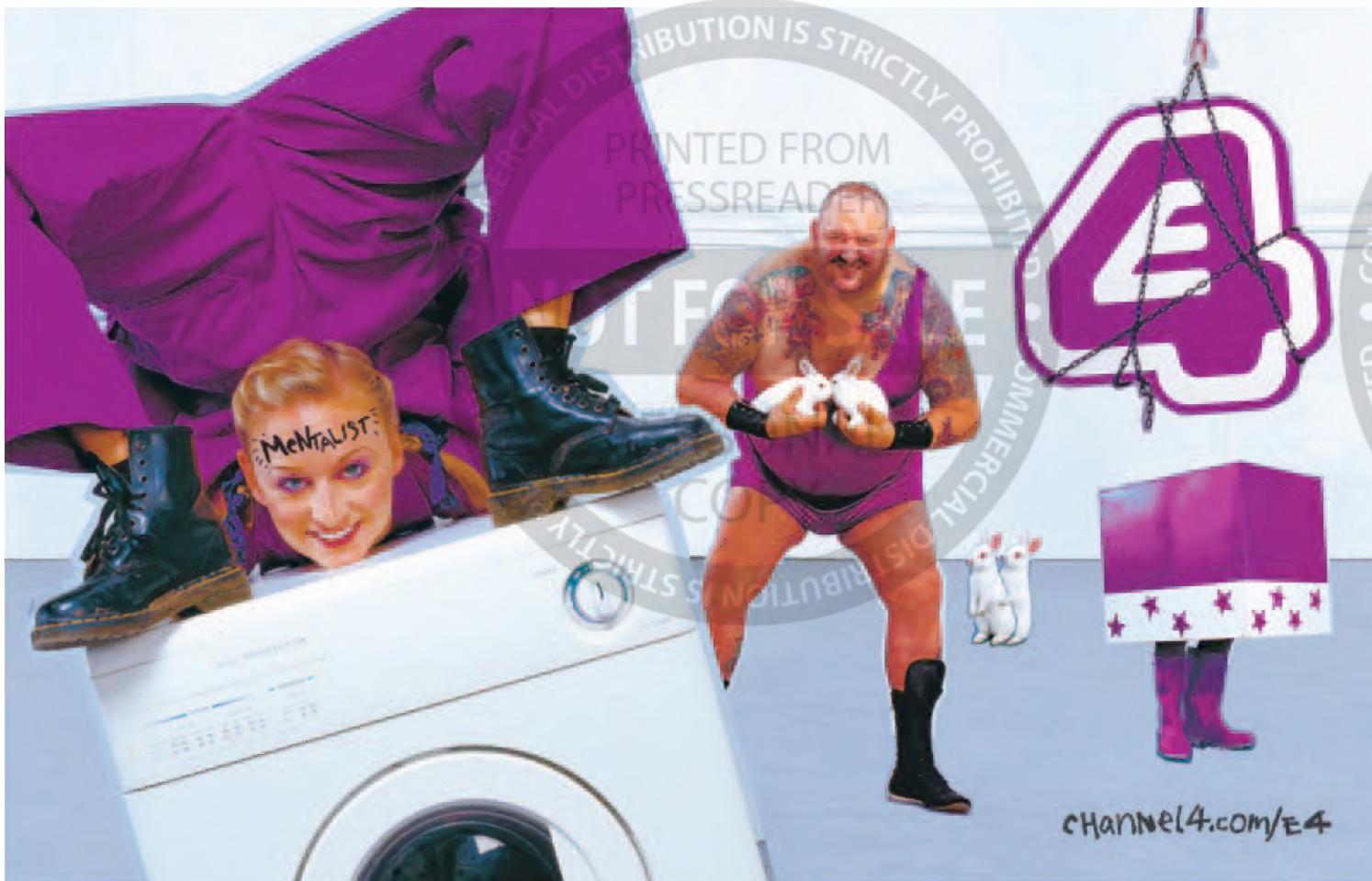
Daniel, who was wearing an eye-catching green velvet coat, was joined on the red carpet by sexy Katie Leung, 18, who plays his love interest Cho Chang.

Among the celebrities packing out the cinema were supermodel Claudia Schiffer, 35 and actress Kate Beckinsale, 32, who went with daughter Lily, six.

★ Singer Madonna, 47, also arrived with her 10-year-old daughter Lourdes. One onlooker said: "All the stars were out. The fans had to put up with some foul weather but it was worth it for them."

MENTAL MAGIC WEEK

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WE'LL GIVE HARRY A SPUD-BASHING!

Army prince gets a pelting

ARMY top brass are to knock the royal chip off Prince Harry's shoulder by pelting him with muddy spuds.

The young royal will be bombarded with King Edwards as part of his officer training course at Sandhurst.

The prince and his 30-strong platoon will have to fend off an angry mob throwing potatoes in a fake riot.

The bizarre anger management exercise is designed to test recruits' skills in counter-insurgency and peace-keeping situations.

Their 100 attackers will be Gurkha soldiers and fellow officer recruits who are known to be ruthlessly planning to score direct hits.

"If they don't keep their shields up they can end up with some nasty bruises," said a

■ by IMOGEN LILLYWHITE

Sandhurst spokesman. "The potatoes are thrown with a lot of force – we are simulating a situation that troops deal with regularly in Iraq, Bosnia and Afghanistan.

"It is a real test of the cadets' nerve and strength of character. Spectators who have seen the exercise can't believe how frightening it is."

Combat

Harry, 21, will also take part in a three-week exercise in Cyprus, Canada or France in April to be tested in situations from peace-keeping to full-blown combat.

Prince William, 23, left, who starts at Sandhurst in January, is already proving he's sharper than his brother.

He scored seven out of 10, compared to Harry's feeble four, in a test designed to work out how bright officer recruits are.

news@dailystar.co.uk



HOT STUFF: Jamie

Jamie forks in £7m

■ by ANNE ROBERTS
TELLY chef Jamie Oliver cooked up a £1.8 million fortune last year.

His earnings make him one of Britain's wealthiest people aged 30 and under.

His company, Sweet as Candy turned over £7.2m and his cookery books have now been translated into 23 languages.

Jamie, who was 30 in May, and wife Jools received £1.4m in share dividends as well as £457,100 in salaries and pension contributions – double their 2003 earnings.

Famous

Jools, 30, has also written a book called *Minus Nine To One: The Diary Of An Honest Mum*, which is about life at home with children Poppy, three, and Daisy, two.

Philip Beresford, compiler of the Sunday Times Rich List, said: "He is one of the youngest entrepreneurs in Britain."

"He is already on the list of richest people under 30, and it will be interesting to see how long it takes for him to make it onto the main list of 1,000 richest people in Britain."

Jamie started cooking at his father's pub The Cricketers in Saffron Walden, Essex, and later moved to the famous River Café, London, before his TV show *The Naked Chef*.



'Safe' cig on way

TOBACCO bosses have come up with a "safe" cigarette said to cut the risk of cancer by 90%.

They are the same as normal cigarettes but are said to produce lower levels of cancer-causing chemicals.

But doctors yesterday branded all cigarettes "unsafe".

Makers British American Tobacco will use special tobacco and new filters in the cigs, due out next year.

HOME ECONOMY

WOMEN do £17,400-worth of unpaid work around the home each year, a Sainsbury's Bank survey has claimed.

■ FIRING LINE:
Soldier Harry faces a bruising barrage from his fellow recruits



GIRLS ARE OUT OF STEP

WOMEN soldiers are to be allowed to train in their own groups away from men – because they get hurt trying to keep up with their male colleagues.

Injuries and drop-out rates have increased since mixed-sex training was introduced in 1995.

Women are nine times more likely than men to be discharged from the Army with a training-related injury. It seems that at last the Army has woken up to the fact that women are different."

■ by ELIZABETH JAMES

and thigh and pelvic injuries related to trying to keep up with men's longer strides.

Colonel Bob Stewart, who won the DSO for his service in Bosnia in the 1990s, said: "Men are stronger and more robust and it's silly to pretend otherwise. It seems that at last the Army has woken

up to the fact that women are different."

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JOLIE SCARY

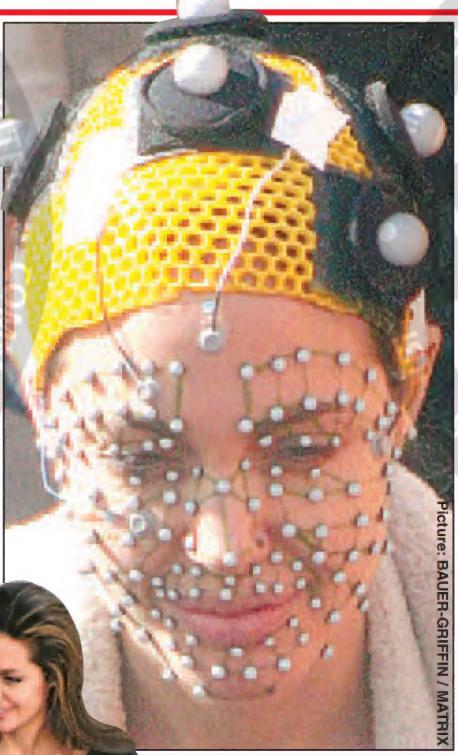
Electric Angie's a bright spark

FANS of gorgeous Angelina Jolie are in for a shock when they see the way the stunning Hollywood superstar is kitted out for her next movie.

The pin-up's lovely looks are covered in what look like stuck-on pimples as she swans round the set wearing an "electric suit".

But the fans won't have to watch 30-year-old Angelina like this. She is shooting an animated version of the legend of Beowulf, and the hi-tech suit maps her movements so they can be transferred into computer animation.

Angelina is one of the star voices, along with John Malkovich, Anthony Hopkins and Ray Winstone (left) starring in the multi-million pound adventure.

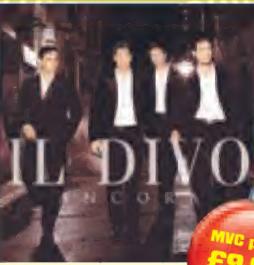


Picture: BAUER-GRIFFIN / MATRIX

Lucy Werhan
Store Manager, Chesterfield.

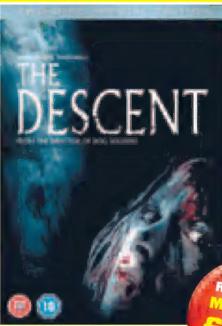


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'END OUR FEUD' PLEA BY LOTTE'S SISTER

I'd love to be friends again, says Elisha



RIFT: Elisha Church

CHARLOTTE Church's step-sister yesterday begged the singer to end a family feud and get back in touch.

Single-mum Elisha Church, 22, said she would love to heal the rift and become friends again.

Elisha's dad James moved out when she was five to live with divorcee

■ by JACK BELLAMY

Maria Reed and her four-year-old daughter Charlotte. They later married and James has formally adopted Charlotte.

During that tough time the two girls became friends, having sleepovers and discussing boys.

Elisha said: "Charlotte was sweet and shy. We'd giggle about boys and

watch Dirty Dancing on video together. She loved singing into her hairbrush."

A family rift tore the two apart and Elisha hasn't spoken to her dad in six years.

Elisha last spoke to the Crazy Chick singer at the Tsunami concert at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, in January.

But while Charlotte sang on stage Elisha was scrubbing the stadium's toilets.

She said: "We once called ourselves sisters so it did seem surreal that I was scrubbing the loos while she was on stage."

And the mother-of-two thinks Charlotte's career side-lined her from her father's affections.

She said: "Dad started cancelling and sometimes just forgot to pick us up all together.

Blame

"I remember once we had to stay in the car because Charlotte's agent was in the house."

"It was like he wanted to keep us a secret."

But Elisha, from a council estate in St Mellons, Cardiff, does not begrudge Charlotte's £5 million fortune.

She said: "She has worked so hard for it. I don't expect anything from her. She's not to blame for my father not talking to me."

Elisha often sees 19-year-old Charlotte on nights out in Cardiff and says she would love to meet up with her.

She said: "I'd love to see more of Charlotte. She'd make a great auntie to my kids."

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Clever Carol's sex secrets PAGE 33



TV KARATE ACE 'IS £50K SCROUNGER'

■ by TARA FAWCETT

magistrates in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, on December 2.

Kevin O'Connor, a fight adviser to telly shows, has appeared in court and could face up to six months in jail if convicted.

The father-of-two, 48, ruptured a disc in his back in 1994 and started claiming handouts two years later.

Tip-off

He said he needed a stick to help him walk and successfully applied for incapacity benefit, income support and disability living allowance. But he was investigated after a tip-off and charged with fraud.

It is understood surveillance footage shows O'Connor, of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, teaching falls and throws during a martial arts session. He will appear again before

O'Connor, whose wife, Dawn, is also a martial arts expert, is a national coach for the British Jujitsu Association.

He said: "I have done some voluntary work since my injury but no money ever changed hands. I think there has been a misunderstanding. I am going to plead not guilty and fight this all the way."

• A JOBLESS bachelor claimed £40,000 in benefits despite having £200,000 in the bank. Peter McPake, 56, of Walker, Newcastle, ignored the inheritance from his mum's will and carried on claiming dole and housing benefit for nine years. He has repaid all the cash and was given a conditional discharge.



MIKE EDWARD



The most tuned-in telly critic of 'em all

The gory that was Rome

NEW EPIC IS FULL OF BLOOD, SEX AND SANDALS...

THREE minutes and nine seconds, according to my watch – that's how long it took episode one of *Rome* (BBC2, Wednesday) to deliver its first fatal impalement.

"Urggggh!" moaned the battlefield victim, as people tend to do when they get a sword in the gut. The first, much-anticipated, rumpy-pumpy came six minutes and 40 seconds later – a woman called Atia doing it with a bearded fellah in exchange for a horse. I was going to say we'll be seeing a lot more of Atia, but frankly we'd seen pretty much ALL of her in the time it takes to heat up a Pot Noodle.

But then subtlety isn't meant to be this show's strong point.

The aim of Episode One – besides establishing the characters and plot – was to leave us in no doubt as to the brutality of life in Roman times.

Basically, we're talking stabbing and shagging.

Pardon my Latin.

This isn't a problem, as these things are crucial to the story. No, they are, honest. If the story hadn't kicked off by showing what a savage world these folk lived in, their behaviour in the next 10 episodes would make no sense.

Take soldier Lucius Vorenus (Kevin McKidd), ordered to rescue the symbolic golden eagle nicked from Caesar.

When asked to suggest how he'd do this, he didn't hesitate.

"I'd take captives from every tribe in Gaul," he replied, "and crucify them, one by one, until

SARAH stunned her boyfriend Scooter in last night's *Corrie* (ITV1), revealing she doesn't share his fixation with fish.

"They're boring, brainless things that swim round and round going nowhere," she cried. "I'm sick of them!"

Funny enough, I believe that's also Martin's excuse for dumping his family.

TRUE to character, Laurel had a simple reason for wanting to press ahead and marry Ashley in last night's *Emmerdale* (ITV1).

"Who knows what tomorrow's going to bring?" she asked him.

Well, nobody. Obviously.

Although, given the village's history, I'd hazard a guess at a multiple pile-up, an earthquake and an outbreak of that bird flu.

someone tells me where it is."

It never occurred to him just to ask nicely.

When Lucius went ahead with this plan, we were again spared none of the gore. Historical dramas have depicted countless crucifixions, but usually it's just looked as though getting



BARING UP: Polly Walker as Atia and, inset, Kevin McKidd

nailed to a cross must have been, you know, a minor inconvenience, particularly when you wanted to check your watch. Here it looked like it really hurt.

So amid all the screwing and skewering, is Rome actually any good?

Just a bit.

The dialogue is snappy, there's heaps of earthy humour and the characters really come to life.

Until they're brutally butchered, naturally.

ON What Kids Really Think (BBC1, Wednesday) host Ian Wright asked his guest, marriage split victim Ulrika Jonsson, to reveal to the children how she split her name.

"I'm not sure!" she replied. "I've had it split so many ways!"

No, love – he meant your first name...



Scoring his late winner

IENDED up watching and enjoying every episode of *Mike Bassett: Manager* (ITV1, Thursday).

Honestly, which critic called it "mediocre" when it kicked off? Oh, it was me, wasn't it? What a tit.

OK, it wasn't crammed with side-splitting gags, but Ricky Tomlinson, inset, gave it an effortless, innocent, romantic charm.

And despite its comic-book style, there were genuine sentiments any non-Premiership fan could identify with. In Thursday's final episode,

clueless Bassett somehow saved Wirral County from finishing bottom of League Two. The table's drop zone may not look authentic (no Torquay? In your dreams, Helen), but Bassett's speech about the importance of a football club to its community touched a nerve. Perhaps some real-life managers should listen to him.

As it happens, I've lent some tapes of this series to the assistant boss at my own club, Brighton.

My only worry is he's mistaken them for training videos.

BUSINESSMAN Chris Gorman – who is worth £45 million – showed off his latest massive home on *Make Me A Million* (Channel 4, Tuesday). He then revealed he "moved five times in five years". Having seen his waistline, I was surprised it was that often.



DON'T ask me why this dog's sat on top of a car, but it's a scene from the current advert for *Orange*, recalling the massive power cut that plunged New York into darkness in 2003. The ad makes you think, too, suggesting that things like this blackout can force us all to pause for reflection.

It even quotes a New Yorker saying: "Sometimes things need to switch off for people to switch on."

Do you reckon he still felt that philosophical after he'd reached into the pocket where his mobile used to be?

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Sounds stupid

FOR her penetrating insight, my Film Critic Of The Week award goes to Debra Stephenson, one of the celebs offering their views on ITV1's *Best Ever Family Films* (Saturday). Commenting on The Sound Of Music, where the singing Von Trapp family are famously hounded by the Nazis, she came out with the blinding revelation: "It's set in the Second World War."

Blimey – and there was me thinking it was another of Prince Harry's pranks.

ON What Kids Really Think (BBC1, Wednesday) host Ian Wright asked his guest, marriage split victim Ulrika Jonsson, to reveal to the children how she split her name.

"I'm not sure!" she replied. "I've had it split so many ways!"

No, love – he meant your first name...

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STAR NEWS



BAT'S THAT: Cricket ace Flintoff is top - but Kate's lost her glam

KINGS OF COOL

■ by NADINE LINKE

ing firm SuperBrands UK and also list fashions, gadgets, eats and drinks.

Products with the most street cred include Stella Artois lager, Diesel jeans and St Tropez fake tan.

Boss Stephen Cheliotis said: "The survey gives us a great insight into who, what and where is cool."

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- 2) David Beckham
- 3) Sienna Miller
- 4) Angelina Jolie
- 5) Brad Pitt
- 6) Kate Moss
- 7) Peter Andre
- 8) Pete Doherty
- 9) Victoria Beckham

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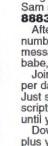
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